

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 1251 - SB 1144

April 24, 2017

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires state mandated tests to be administered to students in K-12 schools in the spring semester only. Places grade-level requirements on when subject-matter tests should be administered. Requires ACT scores to be calculated into a student's course grade. Excludes certain students with disabilities from these requirements.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$88,400

Other Fiscal Impact – To the extent local education agencies administer fewer assessments under the provisions of this legislation, there will be a decrease in state expenditures. However, due to multiple unknown factors, the extent of any reduced state expenditures cannot be determined.

Assumptions:

- Based on information from the Department of Education (DOE), the Department will require an additional staff member to coordinate, develop communications, develop procedures, and assist districts with the following new requirements of this legislation: incorporating ACT data into grades; developing and providing guidance about the administration of end of course assessments in spring only for districts on block schedules; helping LEAs to navigate the issues arising for students who would be required to take assessments in courses they have previously or not yet taken; and providing information to districts and recording decisions about whether to administer assessments that would now be optional and developing new systems for tracking those decisions.
- The employee will require a recurring salary of \$67,008, benefits of \$18,043 and \$3,300 in overhead for a total recurring increase in state expenditures estimated to be \$88,351 (\$67,008 + \$18,043 + \$3,300).
- Based on information from the DOE, the Department will continue to offer assessments under the provisions of the legislation as optional assessments for local education agencies (LEAs).
- To the extent LEAs choose not to offer assessments that they previously offered, there will be a decrease in state expenditures; however, due to unknown factors such as the number of LEAs that will not offer these tests, and the number of students that will not

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be assessed under the provisions of the legislation, the fiscal impact related to test administration cannot reasonably be determined. It should be noted that these assessments are needed for conducting teaching evaluations; therefore, the extent of any reduction in testing and the extent of any applicable reduced state expenditures may or may not be sufficient for offsetting the estimated increased expenditures that are associated with the additional required position.

- Given that the state pays for testing currently, as well as under the provisions of the legislation, the fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant for local governments.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Krista M. Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista M. Lee, Executive Director

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